

Response

Applicant: John M. Hall et al.

Serial No.: 09/810,074

Filed: March 15, 2004

Docket No.: 10004376-1

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS
IN A COMPUTER NETWORK

IN THE CLAIMS

1.(Original) A method of identifying whether a communication in a computer network is directed to a destination that is internal to a company, the computer network including a directory server, the directory server including a company directory that provides employee information, the method comprising:

receiving destination information associated with a first network communication;
accessing the directory server and comparing the received destination information with information in the company directory; and
determining whether the first network communication is directed to a destination that is internal to the company based on the comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory.

2.(Original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

adding an identifier to the first network communication to indicate whether the first network communication is directed only to destinations internal to the company.

3.(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the destination information specifies at least one email address.

4.(Original) The method of claim 3, and further comprising:

determining whether the specified at least one email address is contained within the company directory, and
determining whether the first network communication is directed to a destination that is internal to the company based on the determination of whether the specified at least one email address is contained within the company directory.

5.(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the destination information specifies at least one fax phone number.

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6.(Original) The method of claim 5, and further comprising:

 determining whether the specified at least one fax phone number is contained within
 the company directory, and

 determining whether the first network communication is directed to a destination that
 is internal to the company based on the determination of whether the specified
 at least one fax phone number is contained within the company directory.

7.(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the destination information specifies a
plurality of destinations, the method further comprising:

 identifying whether each of the plurality of destinations is internal to the company
 based on a comparison of the received destination information and the
 information in the company directory.

8.(Original) The method of claim 7, and further comprising:

 adding an identifier to the first network communication to indicate whether the first
 network communication is directed only to destinations internal to the
 company.

9.(Original) The method of claim 7, and further comprising:

 adding an identifier to the first network communication to indicate whether the first
 network communication is directed to at least one destination external to the
 company.

10.(Original) The method of claim 7, and further comprising:

 transmitting at least a portion of the first network communication via email to
 destinations identified as external to the company; and

 transmitting at least a portion of the first network communication to a web server.

11.(Original) The method of claim 10, and further comprising:

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transmitting an email communication to destinations identified as internal to the company, the email communication including link information for accessing the information transmitted to the web server.

12.(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the directory server is an LDAP server.

13.(Original) The method of claim 7, and further comprising:

transmitting a first version of the first network communication to destinations identified as internal to the company; and

transmitting a second version of the first network communication to destinations not identified as internal to the company, the second version differing in content from the first version.

14.(Original) The method of claim 7, and further comprising:

transmitting a version of the first network communication via a first communication method to destinations identified as internal to the company; and

transmitting a version of the first network communication via a second communication method to destinations not identified as internal to the company, the second communication method differing from the first communication method.

15.(Original) A network device configured to be coupled to a computer network having a directory server, the network device comprising:

a receiver for receiving destination information associated with a first network communication; and

a controller configured to perform a search of the directory server based on the received destination information and determine whether the destination information specifies a destination that is internal to a first company based on the search.

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16.(Original) The network device of claim 15, and further comprising a memory coupled to the controller, the memory storing a destination identification process, and wherein the controller is configured to determine whether the destination information specifies a destination that is internal to a first company based on the destination identification process.

17.(Original) The network device of claim 15, wherein the controller is configured to add an identifier to the first network communication to indicate whether the first network communication is directed only to destinations internal to the first company.

18.(Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of identifying whether a communication in a computer network is directed to a destination that is internal to a company, the computer network including a directory server, the directory server including a company directory that provides employee information, comprising:

receiving destination information associated with a first network communication;
accessing the directory server and comparing the received destination information with information in the company directory; and
determining whether the first network communication is directed to a destination that is internal to the company based on the comparison of the received destination information and the information in the company directory.

19.(Original) The medium of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises:

adding an identifier to the first network communication to indicate whether the first network communication is directed only to destinations internal to the company.

20.(Original) The medium of claim 18, wherein the destination information specifies at least one email address.

21.(Original) The medium of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises:

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determining whether the specified at least one email address is contained within the company directory, and

determining whether the first network communication is directed to a destination that is internal to the company based on the determination of whether the specified at least one email address is contained within the company directory.